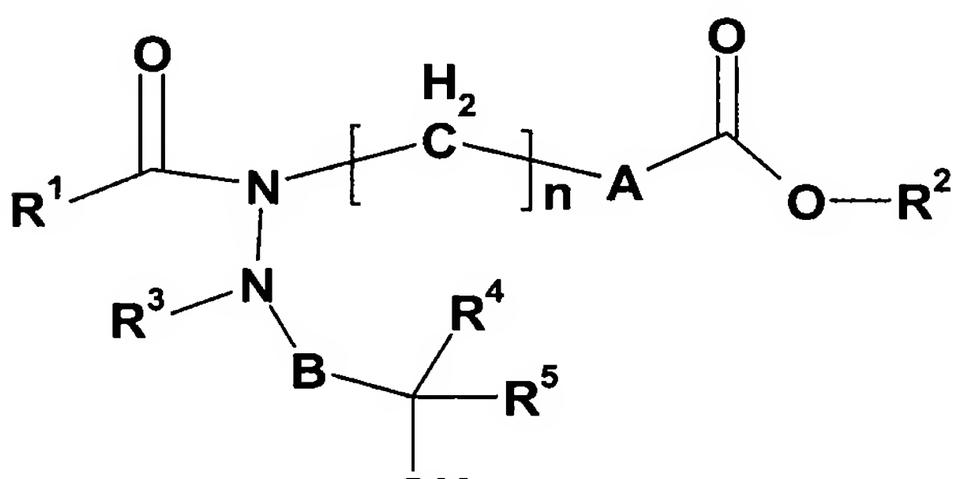
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A hydrazide derivative of Formula (I):



(I)

as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and mixtures of these, as well as salts thereof, wherein:

A is selected from the group consisting of C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl;

B is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene, and C_2-C_6 alkynylene;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl C_1-C_6 alkyl, heteroaryl C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl;

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl and C_2-C_6 alkynyl;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 heteroalkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl C_1-C_6 alkyl, heteroaryl C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl; and

n is an integer selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative ~~of~~ according to claim 1, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein A is phenyl.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein B is ethylene.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is H.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is H.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is H.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide according to claim 1, wherein n is 2.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein A is phenyl; B is ethylenyl; R^1 is C_1-C_6 alkyl; R^2 and R^4 are H; R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H and methyl; and n is 2.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is aryl C_1-C_6 alkyl.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is heteroaryl C_1-C_6 alkyl.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[3-hydroxy-4-(3-iodophenyl)butyl] hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-bromophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(1,1'-biphenyl-3-yl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(phenylethynyl)phenyl]butyl}hydrazino)ethyl]

benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxy-4-phenylbutyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-ethynylphenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-(2-{1-acetyl-2-[4-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxybutyl]hydrazino}ethyl)benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{3-hydroxy-4-[4-(phenylethynyl)phenyl]butyl}hydrazino)ethyl]

benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxy-4-thien-2-ylbutyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{4-[3-(cyclopropylethynyl)phenyl]-3-hydroxybutylhydrazino)ethyl]

benzoic acid;

4-[2-(2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]butyl}-1-isobutyrylhydrazino)ethyl]

benzoic acid;

4-[2-(2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]butyl}-1-propionylhydrazino)ethyl]

benzoic acid;

4-[2-(1-acetyl-2-{3-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]butyl}hydrazino)ethyl]

benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-cyclohexyl-3-hydroxypropyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid; ~~or~~

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of said compounds.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A hydrazide derivative selected from the group consisting of:

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxyoctyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxyoctyl)-2-methylhydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid;

4-{2-[1-acetyl-2-(3-hydroxybutyl)hydrazino]ethyl}benzoic acid; and

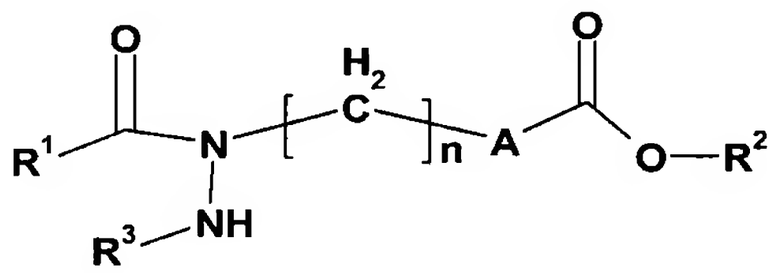
~~or~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of any of said compounds.

Claims 18-29 (Cancelled).

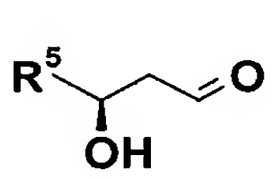
Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and one or more compounds according to claim 1.

Claim 31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, comprising the step of a reductive amination of a hydrazide of Formula II with a compound of Formula III in presence of a reducing agent:



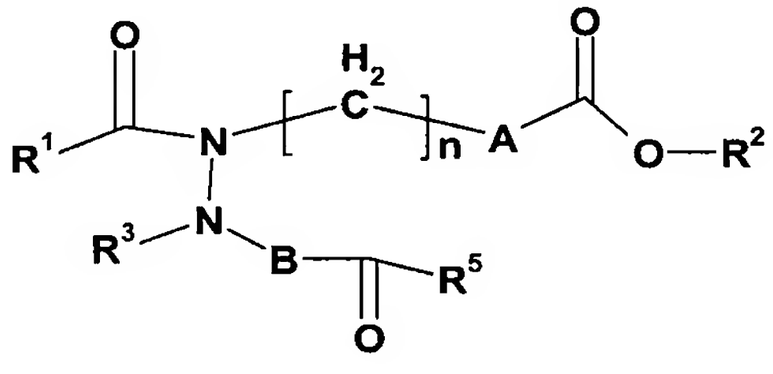
(II)



(III)

wherein A, R^1, R^2, R^3 and n are as defined above; R^5 is $-CH_2-R^6$ wherein R^6 is selected from C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_2-C_5 alkenyl, C_2-C_5 alkynyl, C_1-C_5 heteroalkyl, C_1-C_5 alkyl C_1-C_5 alkyl, aryl C_1-C_5 alkyl and heteroaryl C_1-C_5 alkyl.

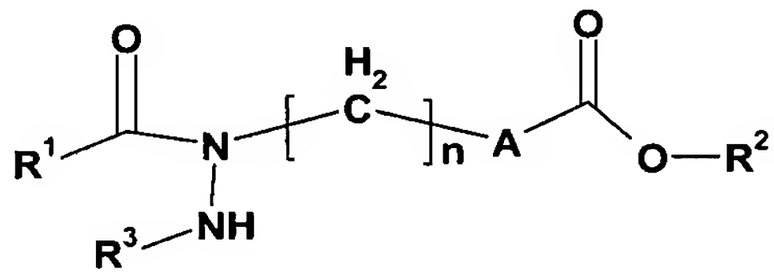
Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a hydrazide derivative according to claim 1, comprising the step of a reduction of a compound of Formula IV:



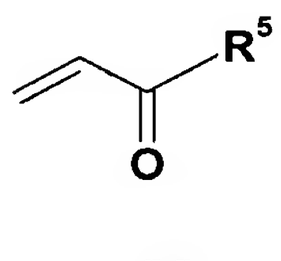
(IV)

wherein A, B, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5 and n are as defined above.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 33, further comprising the step of an addition of compound of Formula V to a compound of Formula II through a Michael addition [to obtain a compound of formula IV:]



(II)



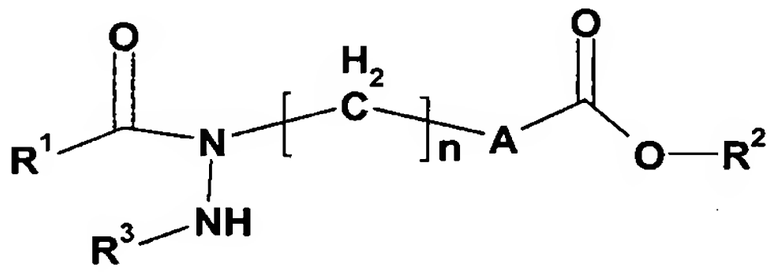
(V)

wherein A, B, R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^5 are as defined above; R^4 is H.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 32, further comprising the step of saponification of the resulting compound of Formula I, wherein R^1 is not H into a compound of Formula I, and wherein R^2 is H.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 32, wherein A is phenyl.

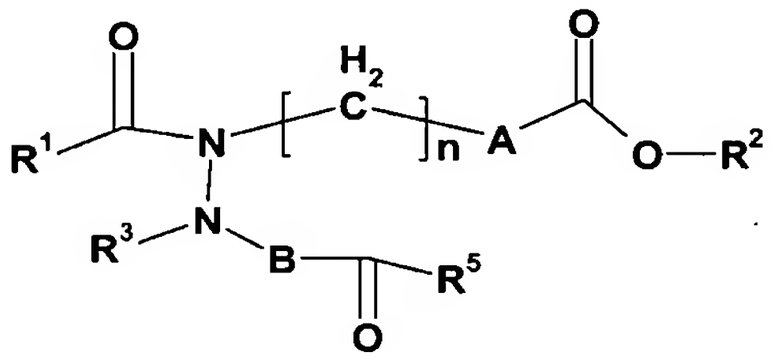
Claim 37 (Original): A compound of Formula II:



(II)

as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and mixtures of these, as well as salts thereof, wherein A, R^1, R^2, R^3 and n are as defined above.

Claim 38 (Original): A compound of Formula IV:



(IV)

as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and mixtures of these, as well as salts thereof, wherein A, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5 and n are as defined above.

Claim 39 (Cancelled)